

**LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Item No. 4
Mtg. Date September 16, 2014
Dept. Development Services

Item Title: Connect Main Street Project Status, Vision and Goals

Staff Contact: Carol Dick, Development Services Director

Recommendation:

1. Receive Project Status Report, and
2. Consider and Accept Refined Vision Statement and Goals.

Item Summary:

On January 10, 2014, the City of Lemon Grove received a Notice to Proceed from SANDAG on the Main Street Promenade Extension Planning Project ("Extension Project"). On January 21, 2014, the City Council selected citizen volunteers to participate as members of a Working Group. As meetings and analysis have occurred, the team (Working Group, City staff and consultant) have determined that a further refinement of the project vision and goals would be critical in order to measure how future concepts meet the community desires.

The staff report (**Attachment A**) outlines the refined Vision Statement and Goals and provides a summary of the project achievements to date.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Environmental Review:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not subject to review | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption, Section [] | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration |

Public Information:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter article | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice to property owners within 300 ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in local newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood meeting | |

Attachments:

- A. Staff Report
- B. Original SANDAG Grant Application Excerpt

LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item No. 4

Mtg. Date September 16, 2014

Item Title: Connect Main Street Project Status, Vision and Goals

Staff Contact: Carol Dick, Development Services Director

Discussion:

On January 10, 2014, the City of Lemon Grove received a Notice to Proceed from SANDAG on the Main Street Promenade Extension Planning Project. The Extension Project is approximately two miles of right-of-way and utility easements from the existing Main Street Promenade to the south edge of Lemon Grove.

Since the March 2014 kick-off meeting, the team has:

1. Conducted 2 surveys and obtained feedback through:

- Workshop survey
- Community polling

2. Held a public workshop that:

- Introduced the Project and the SANDAG Grant
- Presented Existing Conditions and Initial Vision and Goals
- Obtained Community "Big Ideas"

3. Commenced Technical Studies dealing with:

- Base map
- Utility mapping
- Real estate data and easements
- Hazardous materials
- Biological mapping
- Cultural relevance
- Drainage and flooding
- Traffic counts

4. Analyzed data to determine the opportunities and constraints.

5. Generated streetview and quadcopter videos, edited videos and created website presence.

6. "Big Ideas" generated from the workshop reviewed and ranked by the Working Group.

7. Installed a public survey kiosk with handouts and computer terminal at the Lemon Grove Library.

8. Prepared a framework alternative plan to be used as guidance for developing the three park plan alternatives.

Attachment A

During the Working Group meetings, it became apparent that the current title of the project was cumbersome, as such the team selected “Connect Lemon Grove” to accurately reflect the nature of the project. The team also came to the conclusion that refining the vision statement and goals to key statements would help the team and the community measure how well a concept met the needs and desires of the community. The revised vision and goals are consistent with the SANDAG grant (excerpt in **Attachment B**).

The revisions are stated below.

Revised Vision

The vision is to create a community corridor that supports active lifestyles and transportation choices by providing a safe, beautiful and sustainable linear parkway that connects people, places and activities for generations to come.

Revised Goals

1. Mobility options that support active healthy lifestyles
2. Create a sense of place
3. Enhance the natural environment
4. Improve safety and access for all ages
5. Improve connections between neighborhoods and business
6. Respect property and improve property values.

Next Steps

The project is on schedule and the team has scheduled an Open House event to occur on October 4, 2014. This event is meant to:

- present “what we have heard” and document revisions,
- summarize additional opportunities and constraints,
- obtain additional ideas and feedback from the community.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider and accept the refined Vision and Goals and accept Status Report.]

Excerpt from Original SANDAG Grant Application

Project Goal:

The over-riding goal of the project is to plan for a north/south open space area for use as a travel way in a park setting for pedestrians and bicyclists while maintaining utility maintenance and emergency access spanning the length of the City connecting the residential neighborhoods in the central and southern areas of the City with the Massachusetts's and the Lemon Grove Trolley Stations and commercial/civic core of the City.

Project Objectives:

This goal will be achieved by the following objectives:

1. Create a multi-modal, multi-use public facility.

The purpose of this planning project is to expand on the existing Promenade concept by developing efficient, comfortable and fun urban spaces using underutilized spaces by repurposing existing rights-of way. The project is not only expected to consider community needs for outdoor spaces such as pocket parks, seating areas, public art, community gardens, farmer's markets, but also to improve infrastructure such as drainage facilities, placing overhead utilities underground (if any), creating more efficient maintenance access and increasing safety and security. These spaces are to be integrated into the existing urban fabric establishing a sense of place, providing a destination and activity center for users, adjacent residents, and the general public.

2. Encourage transit, pedestrian and bicycle trips.

The current public right-of-way of Main Street is not a completely improved street. Although in some segments there is separation between pedestrians, bicyclist and vehicular travel; this separation is intermittent and confusing. The adaptive re-use of certain roadway segments and the revitalization of other segments are meant to create a system that contains vehicular separated (where it is needed), pedestrian- and bicycle-oriented travel way. The hierarchy of users must be reconsidered where vehicle use is not required and particularly where the roadway can be designed to serve only pedestrian/bicycle travel and special activities (recreational, gathering, events). A direct connection to two Lemon Grove trolley stations is created and will serve a large residential population of Lemon Grove (located within 1,000' of the alignment). The promenade extension also intersects four major east/west streets in Lemon Grove providing future opportunities to further improve the overall pedestrian connectivity in the City.

3. Improve internal mobility.

The Promenade would provide a significant boost to the "quality of life" by providing a recreational amenity with close proximity to significant portions of the residential

Attachment B

areas of Lemon Grove with a multitude of destination choices. The proposed project would create the ability for residents and commuters to safely walk, run, bicycle, exercise, and play uninterrupted by vehicles or barriers. Where redirection of vehicle traffic is advantageous to the goals, the design should ensure that circulation patterns do not create unacceptable conflict or delays. Where access to adjacent private properties must be maintained, driveway designs may be considered to reduce vehicle dominance, provide more green open space and create opportunities for other community activities. The access must be designed to ensure continued property use and emergency access.

4. Enhance sense of place.

The “sense of place” has a combination of recognized elements (aesthetically pleasing public places, identifiable landmarks and focal points, and a human element) that nurture and imprint the sense of place. The Extension has the potential to organize these elements and produce them in an urban milieu where they do not currently exist. The on-going success of open green space, seating areas, play or recreational equipment, lighting, public art, gathering spaces is dependent on what place the community desires and will support throughout the years. Community input is essential to ensure the appropriate place is created and to ensure continued use and pride in place.

V. Scope of Work

The City expects the following list of tasks (not necessarily in order) related to the development of a plan for its Main Street Promenade Extension Project to be prepared and/or conducted by the consultant team. The Extension Project Working Group will provide review and comment at appropriate decision points within these tasks.

1. Community Outreach – Community outreach is to be implemented for all workshops, meetings, public hearings and other methods proposed by the consultant team. Generate a presence on the City’s website, in social media, articles in the newsletter, direct mailings to individuals and civic and public interest groups. Conduct workshops and/or surveys to obtain input, gain knowledge and solicit feedback and other methods as proposed by the consultant team. Staff foresees a minimum of two workshops (not including public hearings at Planning Commission and City Council).
2. Data Collection – Document existing conditions. A base map must be generated and will be a compilation of data obtained from but not limited to: records research, land survey, interviews with stakeholders (MTS, SANDAG, property owners, easement holders, utility companies, City staff, etc.). The base map shall include the following illustrated information to be submitted to the City in AutoCAD format and D Sheets:
 - Property and right of way lines described with metes and bounds.